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Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5204

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15270

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US
SUBJ: JOINT COMMISSIONS

1. DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT THE US SIDE BOTH NAMED THE CHAIRMEN OF ITS SUBCOMMISSIONS AND SET FORTH IN SOME DETAIL THE SUBJECTS WHICH EACH SUBCOMMISSION MIGHT CONSIDER. WE WERE CLEARLY OUT AHEAD OF THE INDIANS WHO HAD NOT SELECTED CHAIRMEN AND EXPRESSED NO COORDINATED VIEW ON FUNCTIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THEREAFTER THE EMBASSY AVOIDED TAKING THE INITIATIVE REGARDING NEXT STEPS ON THE SUBCOMMISSIONS AND AWAITED ACTION BY THE GOI.

2. JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA CALLED IN THE DCM ON NOVEMBER 12 TO DISCUSS THE SUBCOMMISSIONS. HE REPORTED THAT THE GOI WOULD HAVE COMPLETED SELECTION OF ITS CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. HE INQUIRED WHITHER THE US HAD SELECTED ITS MEMBERS SINCE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MIGHT HELP THE INDIANS IN NAMING THEIRS. THE DCM REPLIED THAT ONLY THE MEMBERS ON THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE SUBCOMMISSION HAD BEEN NAMED AND THESE HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED ON TO TEJA. THE DCM TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THAT IF ALL THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS WERE TO MEET BY THE END OF JANUARY SPECIFIC DATES MUST BE SET QUITE SOON SO THAT SUBCOMMISSION MEMBERS COULD RESERVE THE TIMES. THE DISCUSSION PRODUCED A VERY TENTATIVE
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SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO WHICH THE SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE

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AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD MEET IN EARLY JANUARY, THAT ON TRADE AND ECONOMICS IN MID-JANUARY AND EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN LATE JANUARY.

3. TEJA BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COMMISSION. HE REMARKED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD BE TOWARD THE END OF MARCH. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT ACCOMPANY HIM WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT THE US AFTER THAT DATE.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD WANT TO GET TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE AGENDA OF THE SUBCOMMISSIONS. IT WAS LEFT THAT TEJA, WHEN HE PRESENTED THE INDIAN LIST OF CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS, WOULD INDICATE HOW THE GOI WISHED TO PROCEED ON THIS.

5. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE IT BEST THAT WE CONTINUE TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE ON THE JOINT COMMISSION TO THE INDIANS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER, IF WASHINGTON COULD REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON MEMBERSHIP ON THE OTHER TWO SUBCOMMISSIONS SO THAT WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PASS ON THIS INFORMATION TO THE GOI. RE UNRESOLVED ISSUE PERTAINS TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATION ON THE SUBCOMMISSIONS. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OR HIS REPREENTATIVE ATTEND THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS WITH STATUS OF A MEMBER.

6. THE EMBASSY IS EXAMINING IN DETAIL POSSIBLE AGENDAS FOR THE THREE SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS AND ITEMS WHICH THE GOI IS LIKELY TO RAISE. WE WILL FORWARD PAPERS ON THE THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS. MOYNIHAN

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